Richard D. Statham, Sarah Ann Bernard and their children

RICHARD AND SARAH

Based on his reported age on censuses from 1820 through 1840, Richard was probably born between 1795 and 1800. His age as reported on the 1850 census yields a birth year of 1805 but this would mean he was about 9 when he served in the War of 1812[1] from Aug 1814 to Feb 1815[2] and 14 years old when he married, both unlikely.

Fluvanna Co. VA

Richard married in Fluvanna Co. in 1819[3], the same year he made his first appearance as an independent tithable on the tax list.[4] He was a householder in Fluvanna in 1820 and 1830.

Sullivan Co. TN

Richard Statam was on the 1837 tax list in Sullivan Co.[5]

Hamilton Co. TN

Richd Statum was on the 1840 census in Hamilton Co. (indexed as Statean).

Red River Co. TX

Richard, Sarah and their son Richard were on the 1850 census in Red River Co. (as Statim).

Question: Who is the Henry Statum born c1790 in VA who was also living in Red River Co. in 1850?

Sebastian Co. AR

Richard is buried in Sebastian Co.; he died on 20 Jan 1858 according to his gravestone,[6] but the 3 Jul 1814 date of birth on his marker is obviously incorrect.

Sarah was on the 1860 Sebastian Co. AR census and is also buried in Sebastian Co.[7] Her marker gives the date of death as 4 Jun 1863 but, as with Richard's, the 4 Apr 1816 date of birth is wildly off the mark.

NEWMAN FAMILY TREE

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[1] Richard D. Statham, Pvt., 7 Regt (Gray's) VA Militia, War of 1812 Service Record Index, *Fold3* (http://www.fold3.com).
[2] "Virginia Militia in the War of 1812, Vol. I," *Ancestry* (http://www.ancestry.com).
[3] "Virginia, Marriages, 1740-1850," *Ancestry*; Fluvanna Co., 3 Nov 1819, Richard D. Stratham-Sarah Barnard.
[4] Fluvanna County, Virginia, Personal Property Tax Books, 1782-1826, FHL microfilm 2,024,538.
[5] "Tennessee, Early Tax List Records, 1783-1895," *Ancestry.*
[6] Gravestone for R.D. Statham, *Findagrave* (http://www.findagrave.com) #30863021.
[7] Gravestone for Sarahann Statham, *Findagrave* # 30863237.

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It isn't known who placed these markers or when but it seems unlikely they were placed by Richard and Sarah's children because even if they were unsure about the exact dates, they presumably knew their *own* ages and wouldn't so badly miscalculate when their parents were born. The death dates may indeed be correct but they cannot be accepted unreservedly when the birth dates from the same source are so glaringly wrong.

BERNARD

Sarah was of age (21) on 14 Oct 1818 when she and her two siblings, Benjamin and Nancy (wife of Lawrence Walker, Louisa Co.), accepted a settlement from their uncle Peter Bernard Jr., the administrator of their grandfather Peter Sr.'s estate in Franklin Co., 150 miles from Fluvanna.[8] Sarah's siblings were *not* of age, however; according to the deposition of their mother Ann Bernard, Benjamin was born in Jan 1798, i.e., "two years and from January to September before the birth of Nancy," and Nancy was born on 14 Sep 1800.[9] This circumstance, along with evidence that their uncle had misrepresented the value of Peter Sr.'s estate, was a likely factor in the favorable Chancery Court ruling they won in Oct 1836. A commissioner was appointed to settle accounts and his 4 Mar 1837 report showed each of the three plaintiffs due $637.23 after deducting the $150 settlement they had each received in 1818 and adding 6% interest per annum from 1819 when their grandfather's estate had been settled (the interest making up more than half of the total).[10] By the time the final decree was rendered, two of the original parties were deceased: Peter Jr. died in about 1836[11] and Nancy's husband, Lawrence Walker, died in Feb 1836; Nancy Walker was already deceased when the suit was initiated, having died in 1826. Her heirs were her children Benjamin, Francis, Martha and David H. Walker.[12]

Sarah, Benjamin and Nancy were the children of David Bernard[13] and Ann Lilley.[14] David Bernard died intestate in Fluvanna Co. between Apr 1804, when he returned his tax list,[15] and Nov 1804, when an appraisal of his estate was completed.[16]

CHILDREN OF RICHARD AND SARAH

There is no direct evidence that the individuals identified below were the children of Richard and Sarah though Richard H. can be presumed to be their son as he appeared in their 1850 Red River Co. TX household. There is indirect evidence for this claim, however; first, the children in Richard D. Statham's 1830 and 1840 households are a

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[8] 1837-021, Franklin Co., Benjamin Bernard vs. Admr of Peter Bernard, Jr., etc.; Chancery Records Index, *Virginia Memory (*http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/), 3.
[9] Ibid., 171-172, deposition taken on 10 Aug 1834.
[10] Ibid., 99.
[11] Peter was still living when the suit was initiated in 1834 but was deceased as of 4 Jan 1836 when his will dated 9 Nov 1835 was proved (Franklin Co. VA Will Book 4: 369-370).
[12] 1837-021, Franklin Co., Benjamin Bernard vs. Admr of Peter Bernard, Jr., etc.; 7, 5.
[13] Ibid., 3.
[14] "Virginia, Marriages, 1660-1800," *Ancestry*; Fluvanna Co., 21 Mar 1793, David Barnerd-Ann Lilley.
[15] Fluvanna Co., Va., Personal Property Tax Books, 1782-1826.
[16] Fluvanna Co. VA Will Book 1: 267-268; 22 Nov 1804, David Barnerd estate.

good fit for the Benjamin, George and Albert Statum and Catherine Patten on the 1850 Crawford Co. AR census. Benjamin was part of Catherine's household, Albert was part of George's and all reported a birthplace of VA.

1830 census	1840 census	Birth year range	1850 name	1850 birth year
Male 5-10	Male 15-20	1820-1825	Benjamin	1822
Male <5	Male 10-15	1825-1830	George	1827
Female <5	Female 10-15		Catherine	1827
N/A	Male 5-10	1830-1835	Albert	1833
N/A	Male 5-10		Richard	1834

Second, two of these Stathams had a **Fluvanna Co. VA** connection:

- George gave Fluvanna Co. as his birthplace when he enlisted with Co. H, 2 AR Cavalry in 1863.[17]

- A bio on Albert published during his lifetime, and containing sufficient detail about his early life to suggest he was the source, stated that he was born in Fluvanna Co. VA in 1832, moved to Hamilton Co. TN as a child and enlisted for the Mexican-American war in 1846 at Fort Smith AR (then Crawford Co.) with his brothers George and Benjamin.[18] This chronology tracks well with the records found for this family.

The precise movements of Richard's family between 1840 and 1850 are not clear, i.e., when exactly they left TN and whether their paths diverged then or later in AR or TX. Fort Smith was likely the draw for Richard's sons with the looming Mexican-American War: this is where Benjamin[19] and George[20] enlisted in 1846. Albert also enlisted at Fort Smith in 1846 according to his bio, and though he was apparently too young to fight (about 14) he served as a drummer boy.[21]

Catherine's husband John was born in TN according to the 1850 and 1860 censuses, and this may be where they met and married. On the other hand, the oldest child shown in their 1850 household, Thomas J., was born in MO in about 1843 and the next oldest child, daughter Francis, was born in AR in about 1848. Assuming this five-year age gap is accurate, it may mean that Thomas was John's son from an earlier marriage, such as the 1842 John Patton marriage in TN.[22]

[17] George S. Statham, Pvt., Co. H, 2 Arkansas Cav., Civil War, compiled military service record, *Fold3*.
[18] "History of Fresno County, California," *Ancestry*; originally published in 1882.
[19] Benjamin Statem, Pvt, Co. D, Gray's Battn AR Vols, Mexican War, compiled military service record, *Fold3*; enlisted at Ft. Smith Crawford Co. on 16 Jul 1846, age 28.
[20] George S. Statam aka Statem, Pvt., Co. D, Gray's Battn AR Vols, Mexican War, compiled military service record, *Fold3*; enlisted at Ft. Smith Crawford Co. on 16 Jul 1846, age 21.
[21] "United States Mexican War Pension Index, 1887-1926," *FamilySearch*; Albert H. Statham, Drummer, C, 12th US Inf.; applied in CA 4 Feb 1887; widow Mary E. Statham now Klein applied in CA 27 Aug 1900.
[22] "Tennessee, Marriage Records, 1780-2002," *Ancestry*; Davidson Co., 6 Jul 1842, John Patton-Catherine Holden (indexed as Holder).